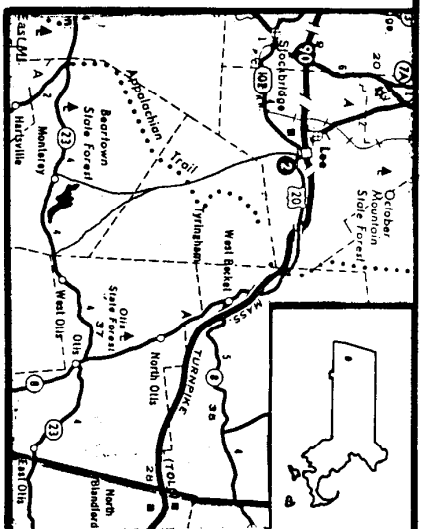


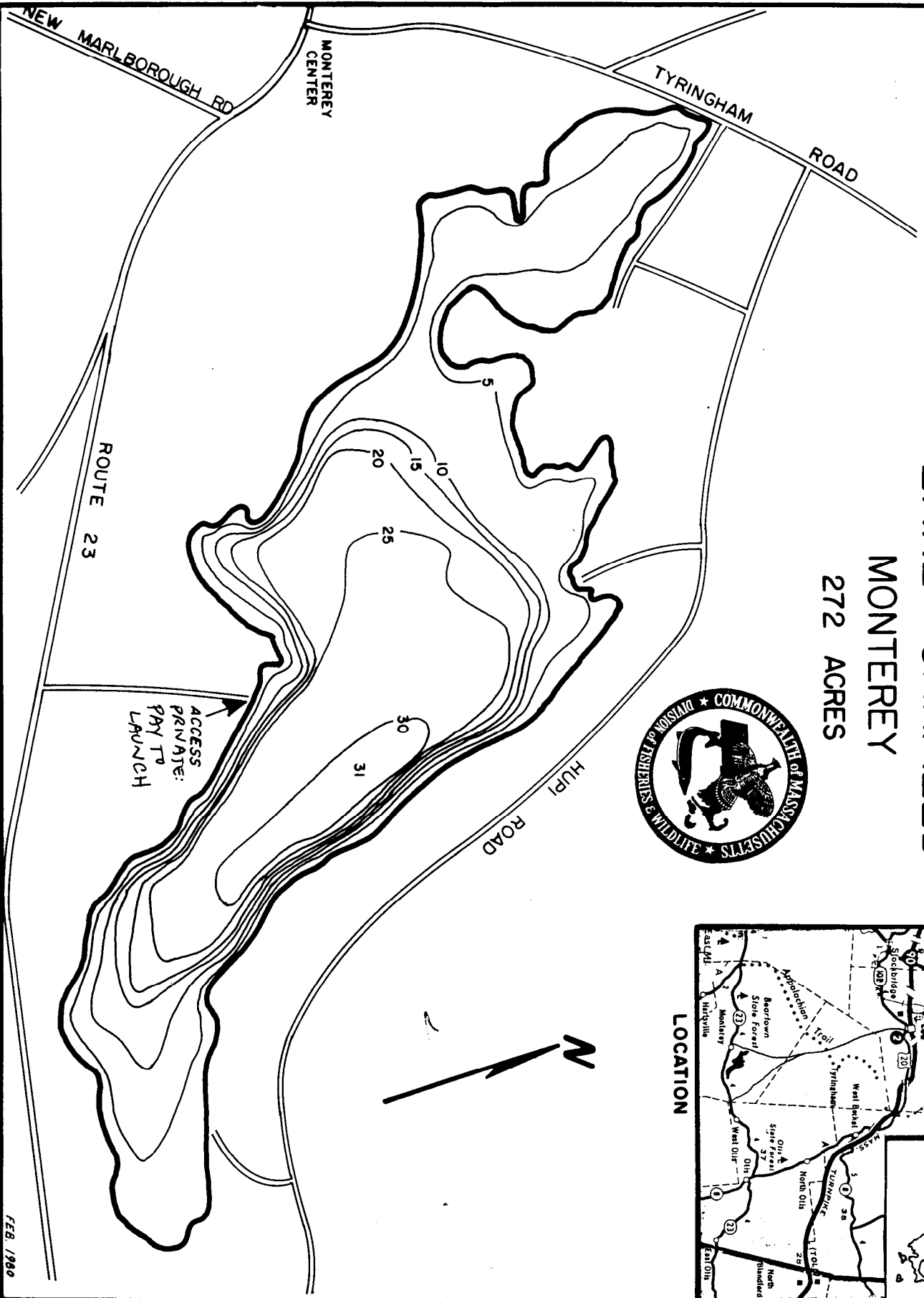
LAKE GARFIELD

MONTEREY

272 ACRES



LOCATION



LAKE GARFIELD (Monterey)

General Information:

This large, 262-acre, two story lake is located about a half mile north of the center of Monterey off Route 23. Average depth is 16 feet and maximum depth is 31 feet. The water is transparent to 11 feet and the bottom is a mixture of boulders, clay and mud. Aquatic vegetation is abundant to a depth of about eight feet, particularly in the inlet and outlet coves. The shoreline is moderately developed with approximately 75 dwellings.

There is an excellent public boat ramp and parking lot on Garfield located at the extreme western end of the lake off Tyringham Road. Unfortunately, the town of Monterey closes it to boaters during the swimming season from June 15 through September 6. Those who want to launch trailer boats during the summer can do so for a fee at a commercial boat ramp on the south shore slightly east of the center of town. Shore fishing is not possible since the shoreline is privately owned and generally developed.

Fish Populations:

A fisheries survey in 1979 recorded 12 species: smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, rainbow trout, chain pickerel, yellow perch, white perch, pumpkinseed, bluegill, brown bullhead, rock bass, white sucker and golden shiner. The lake is stocked with trout every spring.

Fishing:

This lake occasionally produces a good bass or pickerel, but in general the gamefish (and most panfish) are below average in size and abundance due to the dominant yellow and white perch populations. Perch represented over 60% of the weight in the fish samples taken in 1979. The good news is that jigging for yellow perch through the ice can produce remarkably fast action, and angling for white perch can be exceptional during the spring. Try small bucktails or slowly drifted worm/spinner combinations.

Historically, due to a lack of public access, this lake received only moderate fishing pressure. As a result, angling for catchable trout was usually good even in mid summer. With the advent of the new public access, fishing pressure is likely to increase and the majority of the trout stocked will probably be caught during the spring.

Boating and swimming are popular activities at this lake during the warmer months. To avoid conflict during the summer, fishermen should probably confine their activities to early mornings or late evenings during that season.

February 1998